

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended hereby and the support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 6-7.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,479,411 to Klein ("Klein") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,336 to Sit et al. ("Sit"). For the following reasons, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Klein is directed to a system for storing multi-media messages in an integrated voice and image format. In the case of email messages, when an email message is received it can be handled either conventionally or as an integrated voice and/or fax message. (Klein, col. 4, ll. 32-36.) If the integrated voice and/or fax message option is chosen, the header information is processed and stored as voice and image data that can be retrieved *on demand*. (Klein, col. 5, l. 1-col. 6, l. 23.)

However, Klein fails to teach or suggest polling the email server for received email messages as recited in dependent claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 28, 34 and 39. As explained in Klein, the email server responds to a new email when it is received. (Klein, col. 4, ll. 57-65.)

Consequently, no polling of email server is required. In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Klein does not explicitly teach the polling process, as recited in independent claims

1, 7, 13, 22 and 28. The Examiner, however, alleges that Sit teaches the communication protocols involving email servers, especially with respect to automatic polling.

Sit is directed to a method for enabling a tunneling action that allows a remote processor to communicate with a local processor via a reverse proxy device, a computer network, a firewall, and a proxy agent device. To send requests and responses in a form that the firewall will allow to pass, when the remote processor is coupled with the local processor, the local processor sends a first request to the remote processor (an initiation request), but afterward, the messages from the remote processor are "requests", and the messages from the local processors become "responses". A CDMG (client device management gateway) 125 of a local computer controls the local processor to perform this method. That is, CDMG 125 controls the local processor to initiate communications with the remote processor by sending a request 170 to the remote processor when the remote processor is coupled with the local processor, and the remote processor in turn responds by sending a request 171 (that is effectively a response to the request 170) to the local processor. CDMG 125 also initiates communications with remote processor in response to a communication initiation command 130 applied through any standard user interface. (Sit, in col. 3, l. 53 to col. 4, l. 5, and ll. 39-41.)

Further, CDMG 125 can also initiate a communication with the remote processor in response to a communication initiation command 140 received via emails. The communication initiation command 140 is contained in a communication request 165 (165a) that is sent by the remote processor. CDMG 125 periodically polls the email server and executes the

communication initiation command 140 when it reads the communication initiation request 165 (and 165a). (Sit, col. 4, ll 45-55.)

However, the purpose of polling email server in Sit is not to check if there are new email messages, but to find out whether the remote processor has requested to initiate a communication with the local processor. As Sit and Klein relate to different aspects, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine the polling feature of Sit with the voice-and-fax message conveying method of Klein to achieve Applicant's method and systems, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 28, 34, and 39.

Moreover, in addition to the "polling" feature, Klein also fails to teach or suggest notifying the subscriber of voicemail message, as claimed in amended claim 1 and other independent claims 1, 7, 13, 22, 28, 34 and 39. The recited "notification" feature in the present invention is an active operation, wherein the notification of new email messages is performed when new email messages are received during the "polling" operation. On the other hand, in Klein, messages are only conveyed to the users *on demand*, i.e., in response to a call to a message system. That is, Klein converts the email message into a format of integrated voice-and-fax message (including a voice file and a fax file), and upon demand, presents the message as an integrated voice-and-fax message to the subscriber (that is, part of it in the form of a voicemail message and part of it in the form of a fax message). (Klein, col. 6, ll. 21-23; col. 3, ll. 47-49; col. 4, ll. 2-19; and Fig. 2. elements 200 and 230-242) Accordingly, Klein fails to teach or suggest notifying subscribers of the presence of new messages as recited in claim 1, 7, 13, 22, and 28. Klein further fails to teach or suggest "automatically" notify subscribers of the presence

of new messages as recited in claims 34, and 39. In addition, Klein mentions nothing about notifying the subscriber of new messages in accordance with an account information, as recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-46 are patentable and requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

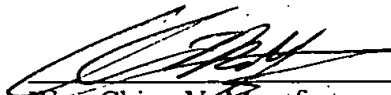
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Respectfully submitted,

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